

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 EB-07 OMB-01 CIEP-01 FRB-03

TRSE-00 COME-00 /066 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5489

INFO DIA

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

USCINCEUR VAINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1724

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECCT: THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS: MORO PREPARES FOR HIS NEW EN-
COUNTER WITH THE SOCIALISTS

REF: ROME 1645

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING MEETINGS BETWEEN SOCIALIST AND CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRAT ECONOMIC EXPERTS, MORO TODAY BUSY SEEKING APPROVAL
FROM MAJOR FIGURES OF HIS PARTY ON PACKAGE HE WILL FORMALLY
PRESENT TO SOCIALIST SECRETARY DEMARTINO. MEETING WITH LATTER
NOT YET SCHEDULED. DEMARTINO WILL THEN CALL A PSI DIRECTORATE
MEETING TO DETERMINE WHETHER PSI WILL COMMIT ITSELF TO ABSTAIN
BENEVOLENTLY IN PARLIAMENT, WHICH IS AS FAR AS IT IS PREPARED
TO GO. MEANWHILE UNRESOLVED QUESTION OF LIBERALIZING
ABORTION TO FORESTALL REFERENDUM RETURNED OVER WEEKEND TO
TEMPER WHATEVER OPTIMISM NOW EXISTS ABOUT THE FINAL
OUTCOME TO MORO'S LATEST EFFORT. END SUMMARY.

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1. ONCE MORO PRESENTS PLAN TO DEMARTINO, SPOTLIGHT

WILL SHIFT TO PSI. EMBASSY SOURCE CLOSE TO DEMARTINO
CONFIRMED THAT DEMARTINO ANXIOUS TO SEE A GOVERNMENT
PSI CAN LIVE WITH FORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, IF FOR NO
OTHER REASON THAN TO PUT COUNTRY INTO POSITION TO COMPLETE
NEGOTIATIONS FOR CREDIT TO SUPPORT THE LIRA.

2. HOWEVER, DEMARTINO'S PROPENSITY TO COMPROMISE IS
CLEARLY NOT SHARED BY IMPORTANT FACTION RIVAL, MANCINI,
WHO HAS AGAIN WARNED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS THAT EVEN A SOCIALIST
ABSTENTION REQUIRES ACCEPTANCE OF SOCIALIST POINT OF
VIEW ON ECONOMICS. BY IMPLICATION, HE PUTS THE DC ON
NOTICE THAT IT WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN SOCIALISTS
AND REPUBLICANS. PSI DIRECTORATE MEETING, WHEN IT OCCURS,
LIKELY TO BE LIVELY.

3. ANOTHER PROBLEM WHICH FUDGES PROSPECTS FOR ULTIMATE
SUCCESS OF MORO'S PRESENT EFFORT IS NEED FOR COMPROMISE
WITH PSI ON A LAW TO LIBERALIZE ABORTION, WHICH WOULD
CANCEL THE REFERENDUM WHICH OTHERWISE MUST TAKE PLACE BETWEEN
APRIL 15 AND JUNE 15. COMMUNIST SPOKESMAN RAISED THE PROBLEM
OVER WEEKEND IN APPARENT MOVE TO HAVE DC-PSI AGREEMENT ON A NEW
GOVERNMENT INCLUDE THIS ISSUE. A DC LEFT-WING SPOKESMAN
AGREED WITH THE LOGIC: IF A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT AN AGREEMENT
ON ABORTION IS FORMED, IT MIGHT QUICKLY FIND ITSELF IN TROUBLE
WHEN THE ISSUE IS FACED AGAIN IN PARLIAMENT. VOLPE

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